

## **REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed May 19, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 11, 13 – 16, 32 – 39, 41 – 44, 46 – 56, 58 – 61, and 63 – 64 remain pending. In particular, Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 31, 40, 45, 57, and 62 and cancel claims 11, 39, and 56. Applicants cancel these claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **I. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action states that Claim 48 is allowable. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that Claims 11, 12, 29 – 40, 56, 57, and 62 – 64 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the bas claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate Examiner Ferrris' indication of allowable subject matter, and amend claims 1, 12, 31, 40, 45, 57, and 62 to comply with the Office Action's request. Applicants submit that these claims are now allowable, and respectfully request removal of the above cited objections.

**II. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12 – 16, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 40 – 45, 49, 52, and 54, 55, 57 – 61 are Allowable**

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12 – 16, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 40 – 45, 49, 52, and 54, 55, 57 – 61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,680,922 to Jorgensen et al. (“*Jorgensen*”). Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 31, 40, 45, 57, and 62 as stated above, and submit that these amendments place claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12 – 16, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 40 – 45, 49, 52, and 54, 55, 57 – 61 in condition for allowance.

**III. Claims 5, 6, 8, 33, 34, 36, 50, 51, and 53 are Allowable**

The Office Action indicates that claims 5, 6, 8, 33, 34, 36, 50, 51, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,680,922 to Jorgensen et al. (“*Jorgensen*”). Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 31, 40, 45, 57, and 62 as stated above, and submit that these amendments place claims 5, 6, 8, 33, 34, 36, 50, 51, and 53 in condition for allowance.

**IV. Claims 2, 3, 46, and 47 are Allowable**

The Office Action indicates that claims 2, 3, 46, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,680,922 to Jorgensen et al. (“*Jorgensen*”) in view of U.S. patent number 6,680,922 to Hanks et al. (“*Hanks*”). Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 31, 40, 45, 57, and 62 as stated above, and submit that these amendments place claims 2, 3, 46, and 47 in condition for allowance.

## CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Further, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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